

News Release

February 23, 2007

Future SET launches new Saturday science club for boys *Boys Exploring Science Engineering & Technology*

St. John's, NL: Future Scientists, Engineers and Technologists [Future SET] launches a new science club for boys tomorrow, Saturday, February 24th.

Boys Exploring Science Engineering & Technology [BE SET] is an exciting science and engineering club, designed to give boys [ages 7 to 14] confidence and foster their interest in science and engineering-based careers. The club is a program of Future Scientists, Engineers and Technologists [Future SET], a national award-winning, hands-on science awareness organization for the youth of Newfoundland and Labrador.

BE SET is modelled on Girl Quest, the successful Future SET program for young girls launched in 2002. BE SET starts on Saturday afternoon, February 24th, in the Engineering Building, Memorial University. The 2007 Girl Quest program began on Saturday, February 17th. There are still a few spaces available at both BE SET and Girl Quest.

“We found that there was significant demand by boys for their own science club and decided to build a program based on Girl Quest,” says Steve McLean, Chair of Future SET and Executive Director, Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador [PEGNL].

Launched in 2002, Girl Quest was created when university students realized that there was a need to encourage girls to consider careers in science and engineering.

“When we launched Girl Quest, it was an immediate success,” he adds. “In the all-girl atmosphere, participants quickly became more confident in their project creation and planning. Our hope is that the new program for boys will be as successful and carry over into their formal educational training.”

“By participating in fun, hands-on projects, the boys and girls have a good time as they learn,” says Future SET Director Sarah Osmond. “Some of the interesting projects will include: growing your own Chia Pet; dissection; programming a game of tic-tac-toe; and building a model cable car with gondola.”

Founded and delivered by PEGNL, Future SET is a non-profit, charitable organization that promotes hands-on science, engineering, and technology education for the youth of Newfoundland and Labrador. By ensuring that the projects are exciting and informative, Future SET children learn concepts in science and engineering in a manner which will continue to spark a future interest in those careers.

Future SET has come a long way since 1994 when a staff of three held school workshops in 18 classes and 140 children participated in the camps. In twelve years, it has grown to nine Future SET staff – young, dynamic university students who are tops in their fields. In 2006, in addition to Girl Quest, more in-class school workshops and science camps, workshops were offered to Girl Guides of Canada groups – for a total of more than 2,800 young people.

In addition to support received from PEGNL and Memorial University, Petro-Canada and NSERC are major sponsors of Future SET.

PEGNL is a self-regulating professional association which governs the competent and ethical practice of engineering and geoscience in Newfoundland and Labrador to ensure public confidence in the professions. PEGNL receives its authority from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador through the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*.

For further information or to register, please call Steve McLean, P.Eng. 753-7714.

Additional information is also available at www.futureset.ca and www.pegnl.ca.